L'Port, Oregon 20 June 79

My Friend Garrison

I do hope, that you will write the history of the anti Slavery contest, & not leave it for posterity to do it. I look upon it, as ~~not only~~ so important in itself, that the ~~important~~ prominent features of it, should be transmitted to our successors, by one who is perfectly familiar with them – if not so done – its history, will probably partake of the nature of all history; be ~~so in~~ simply a statement of the mind of the writers, whoever they may be, & consequently very unreliable – Suppose it was written by a Clergyman, like Dr Cheever, the world would not have its history – but a false representation of it – it seems to me that the clergy, would be wise, to employ some person to write it, in order to cover up their own shame, and they are clear sighted enough to see it – The prominent points in my mind to be established are

1. That it was commenced & carried on upon a moral basis

Ms.A.1.2 v.37, p.113B

2. That the project was ~~almost~~ universally opposed by the whole South, & by those at the North commercially & politically interested, but the strongest opposition came from the most unexpected quarter, viz the Church with the clergy as the leaders — not the Church of the South only, but of the North also, & that almost universal —

3. That the anti Slavery advocates, tho but a handful, were obliged to divide their labors, and to endeavour ~~to weaken if~~ to destroy the power of the Church in this matter, in order to accomplish most of their main object, which they succeed^d in doing, & what for the benefit of the world, so impair^d the influence of the Clergy, that they have never since recover^d it, & it is to be hoped they never will = The stand they took in regard to it, shows that they are influenced by what is popular, instead of by what is right

4. The result of this contest, shows that radical changes were require a whole generation

to bring about — that men will seldom change much, & so the desired change must be brought about by a younger generation

5. That this question being a moral one & most unpopular, those only engage in it, who were stern in their love of right, and could not be swayed either by the clergy — the church, by protestations or by their sympathisers — upon such men the storing, slandering, imprisonment & every form of persecution only rendered them stronger — so that I actually changed 1000 & lost 10,000 to flight.

If you would only write a brief history, giving the leading points & the moral bearing, it would be much better than to go to the press would, & perhaps leave it to be written by those who are interested to give a false coloring to the whole

Yours Fraternally

William Green

Mc.A.1.2 v.37, p.113b